

Integrity Matters



News and information for the horse racing community and the general public

Fall 2008

MESSAGE FROM CHAIR ROD SEILING

"AN EXCITING TIME FOR HORSE RACING – ESPECIALLY IN ONTARIO"



The amazing **Somebeachsomewhere**, seen here after a convincing win at the Red Mile, went on to even greater glory.

In these pages, I've often spoke of the challenges we face as an industry and as a racing community. And while there are indeed realities we must continue to face in terms of maintaining our superior racing product, it is appropriate that we also take the time to celebrate and focus on the many good things that are happening in Ontario horse racing.

We have dedicated owners contributing their resources, track operators giving us some of the country's best entertainment, and of course thousands of hardworking professionals who have made horse racing their vocation. These are the

folks that epitomize the heart and soul of Ontario racing.

In fact, 2008 was among the most memorable in many years – with many 'good news' stories across all breeds that reveal what an exciting time it is for horse racing, especially in this province.

In late August, the sod was turned for the new Quinte Racetrack and Slots complex near Belleville, Ontario. The site, set to open in late 2009, is scheduled to bring live horse racing back to that part of Eastern Ontario in late 2010.

Quarter horse racing on the old J track at Ajax Downs concluded the

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Update - Health, Safety and Regulatory Measures 2008

In January of this year, the Board of the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) approved a number of significant measures designed to protect the health of the horse, ensure the safety of the participant, and reinforce the integrity of the horse racing industry.

The measures ranged from new rules regarding medication and treatment regulations for the protection of the horse, safety equipment for participants, and owner and trainer responsibilities. Some of the measures were put into place immediately, while others are being implemented in a staged process to allow the racing community to adjust.

All licensees are encouraged to become familiar with their duties and responsibilities under these measures. The ORC website is an excellent place to get current information. Go to www.ontarioracingcommission.ca and follow the links from the item "Health, Safety and Regulatory Measures 2008". You can also check out the What's New archives for recent information.

The ORC is committed to communicating the status, updates, and any changes to these important measures on a timely basis.

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"An exciting time for horse racing — especially in Ontario"

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2008 season. A new five-furlong race-track is being prepared for the opening of the 2009 racing season next May. Thanks to the success of Ontario's Horse Improvement Program, quarter horse racing in Ontario has never been richer or more exciting.

And let's not forget the horses!

At the final stakes race on the old track at Ajax Downs, eight amazing quarter horses blasted through the 440 yards for the G3 Alex Picov Memorial Championship. It was a close finish and the winner was **Illbegoneinajazz**.

We can take pride in the fact that

Ontario horse racing and Ontario horses are recognized as international leaders. At the prestigious Breeders' Cup in Santa Anita, eight Canadian horses were in the field, and two finished strong seconds. Ontario-bred **Sealy Hill**, Canada's reigning thoroughbred Horse of the Year, placed in the Filly and Mare Turf. And thanks to an impressive win at the Kentucky Cup Sprint Stakes, **Fatal Bullet** earned a spot in the field and finished an impressive second in the Breeders' Cup Sprint.

"Working together, we can...

*continue to be one of the
largest, most competitive
and best places to race
in North America."*

And there certainly is excitement in standardbred racing, due to some very special horses. Several other Ontario-sired horses have been turning heads on the North American scene. It is not possible to name them all but just part of the list bodes well for racing.

We had homegrown stars like **Nebupanezzar**, who scored a victory in his Metro Pace Elimination at Mohawk, and then captured a thrilling edition of the Governor's Cup in October. At the

Update - Health, Safety and Regulatory Measures 2008

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Some Highlights:

- The requirement for standardbred drivers to wear safety vests while racing came into effect on **November 1, 2008**, after an initial grace period.
- In order to facilitate a smooth transition to the introduction of **safety reins** in Ontario horse racing, a six month pilot program has been announced. As a result, the original dates identified requiring the use of reins (January 1, 2009 for racing and July 1, 2009 for training) have been deferred. See story following.
- Effective June 1, 2008, trainers are required to use an **ORC licensed veterinarian** for any medication or drug requiring a prescription and any treatment ordinarily requiring the services of a veterinarian for any horse under his/her care and control. Exemptions: emergencies and areas under serviced by vets. For an exemption to the 'under-serviced' rule, a trainer should make a written application to the Director, providing detail as to why they believe their area is under-serviced.



Ontario-bred **Sealy Hill** (front) finished a strong second at the prestigious Breeders' Cup in Santa Anita. **St Lads Popcorn** (rear) captured the prize for two-year old pacing fillies at the OSS Super Finals.

Ontario Sires Stakes (OSS) Super Final at Woodbine earlier this month, he earned million-dollar status with a win in the competition for two-year-old pacing colts and geldings.

His female counterpart **St Lads Popcorn** was eight for 11 this season. She shattered the half-mile freshman pacing filly OSS record in the Gold Final in July, and then captured the prize for two-year old pacing fillies at the Super Finals.

Three-year-old trotting colt **Define The World**, continuing the record setting pattern, lowering a provincial half-mile track record with his Gold Final triumph at Flamboro, and then showed fans an exciting finish in the Super Final for 3 year old colts and geldings.

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More on the Pilot Program for Safety Reins

The ORC remains committed to improving the safety of participants and ensuring the welfare of the horse. In the past, the failure of reins has caused catastrophic injuries. Through this phased-in approach for all breeds of racing, the ORC is encouraging the development of a product that meets the needs of Ontario licensees.

A number of rein manufacturers have provided sets of their product so that they can be used and evaluated in the field in training and/or racing situations. A multi-breed working group representing the interests of industry has been established to plan and implement the specific details of the pilot program.

Throughout the pilot program, the working group will monitor the results. At its conclusion, the group will be asked to provide a summary of the pilot and recommendations to the ORC Board, which will make a determination for the next steps in the safety rein initiative.

HERE'S A REVIEW OF THE MEASURES WHICH BECAME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, 2008

- **New Rules for a Horse Positive Test Penalty**
- **Establishing Trainer Absolute Responsibility**
- **Revision of Penalty Guidelines for TCO₂ and Equine Drug offences**
- **Publishing of Trainer Transfer Guidelines**
- **New Guidelines for Licensing Terms**
- **Clarifying Restrictions to Conditions of Entry**
- **Limiting Search and Seizure Authority to ORC**
- **Out of Competition Program codified into the Rules of Racing**
- **Restrictions on the Use of Shock Wave Therapy**

UNDERSTANDING THE RULES ON USE OF SHOCK WAVE THERAPY



Shock Wave Therapy (SWT) involves using a machine to send focused pressure waves to a particular spot. This method of treating horses for injury is becoming more commonplace and when used correctly, is felt to have therapeutic value.

While recognizing its therapeutic value when properly used, the ORC has implemented new rules for its use to ensure the health of the horse and the safety of all participants in racing.

In fact, there is scientific evidence that SWT shortens the healing time of experimentally induced suspensory ligament lesions. It is likely that this is also true for stress fractures and non-unions in bone.

Unfortunately, due to the "freezing" effect of the application in the short term, there is concern that the therapy may be used close to race time to act as a pain killer.

On a race day, horses are not allowed to be administered an anti-inflammatory or any other medication that masks pain or an injury. They can not 'decide' to run while hurt. The ORC believes taking steps to protect horses is in keeping with horse racing's love and compassion for the animal. With this in mind, the reasoning behind controlling the use of Shock Wave Therapy and establishing proper guidelines for its use is fairly straightforward.

The scientific evidence is that anesthesia following SWT lasts about 4 days. Therefore any concern of a horse racing with no feeling in a limb should be negated after this length of time.

"Unfortunately, due to the 'freezing' effect of the application in the short term, there is concern that the therapy may be used close to race time to act as a pain killer."

SB Rule 6.52 – TB Rule 15.37

The use of Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy shall not be permitted on any racehorse unless the following conditions are met:

- a) the treatment took place a minimum of 4 days (96 hours) prior to competing in a race;
- b) the treatment using the Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy machine was conducted by a veterinarian licensed by the Commission as a veterinarian;
- c) any treatment received while on the grounds of the Association was through the use of an Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy or Radial Pulse Wave Therapy machine owned and operated by a veterinarian licensed by the Commission; and
- d) a record of the treatment, including the date and time, is maintained as part of the record of the horse.

LET US COMMUNICATE MORE!

ARE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL AFFECTING YOUR LIFE?

HELP IS AVAILABLE
Call the Drug and Alcohol
Treatment Info line

1-800-565-8603

It's toll-free
It's confidential
It's anonymous
It's open 24 hours

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A publication of the Ontario Racing Commission, the provincial agency which governs, directs and controls horse racing in any or all its forms in the Province of Ontario.

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ARE YOU UP TO DATE ON THE LATEST ORC INFORMATION?

Here is just a sampling of information released recently. Check out the
"What's New Archives" at www.ontarioracingcommission.ca
for more information.

Oct 29, 2008

Notice to the Industry - Safety Reins Pilot Program announced

In order to facilitate a smooth transition to the introduction of safety reins in Ontario horse racing, a six month pilot program has been announced by the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC). As a result, the effective dates identified in the Rules of Racing requiring the use of reins (January 1, 2009 for racing and July 1, 2009 for training) have been deferred and new effective dates will be announced upon completion of the pilot.

Oct 29, 2008 - News Release Grace Period Ends - Safety Vests required November 1

A grace period was announced October 1 by the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) to address an issue of supply at tack shops across the province. The ORC now understands that all orders have been shipped and are in stock.

The Judges have advised that any driver not wearing a safety vest will be removed from their drives. In cases where a driver can demonstrate that a firm order has been placed but not been received, the Judges may consider an exemption for a limited period of time.

"An exciting time for horse racing - especially in Ontario" *continued from pg 2*

And then of course there is **Somebeachsomewhere**. This amazing horse won 14 of his 15 races, including that exciting 1:46.4 trip in Lexington, Ky this past October, equaling a world record and becoming the fastest three year old in harness racing history. This beautiful animal lived up to all expectations, with a convincing win in the OSS Super Finals for three-year-old pacing colts and geldings. And perhaps to no one's surprise, Somebeach wrapped up his sophomore season with a victory in the Breeders Crown Three-Year-Old Colt

Nov 12, 2008 - News Release Call to Manufacturers for Safety Lines Pilot

Manufacturers of tack equipment who believe they can supply and produce a suitable product for the Ontario horse racing industry are invited to participate in an upcoming safety reins pilot program. Please review details in the following News Release.

Nov 18, 2008 - News Release Ontario Government seeks Appointees to serve as Ontario Racing Commissioners

The Ontario government is seeking interested candidates to serve as Commissioners on the Ontario Racing Commission (ORC). Please review the following News Release for more information.

Nov. 19, 2008 - News Release New Outreach Program

The Ontario Racing Commission (ORC) has launched a new Outreach Program that will result in many local racing issues being resolved by those individuals and/or organizations that are directly involved in them.

Pace at The Meadowlands. At this writing, there may be even more to come...

The ORC is pleased with these good news stories in racing and is committed to working with the Ontario racing community to maintain its world class reputation. Working together, we can ensure that Ontario continues to be one of the largest, most competitive and best places to race in North America.

It's an exciting time to be a fan of horse racing in Ontario! And you, the members of that community deserve much of the applause.



